



For Release: Wednesday, February 13, 2019

19-269-ATL

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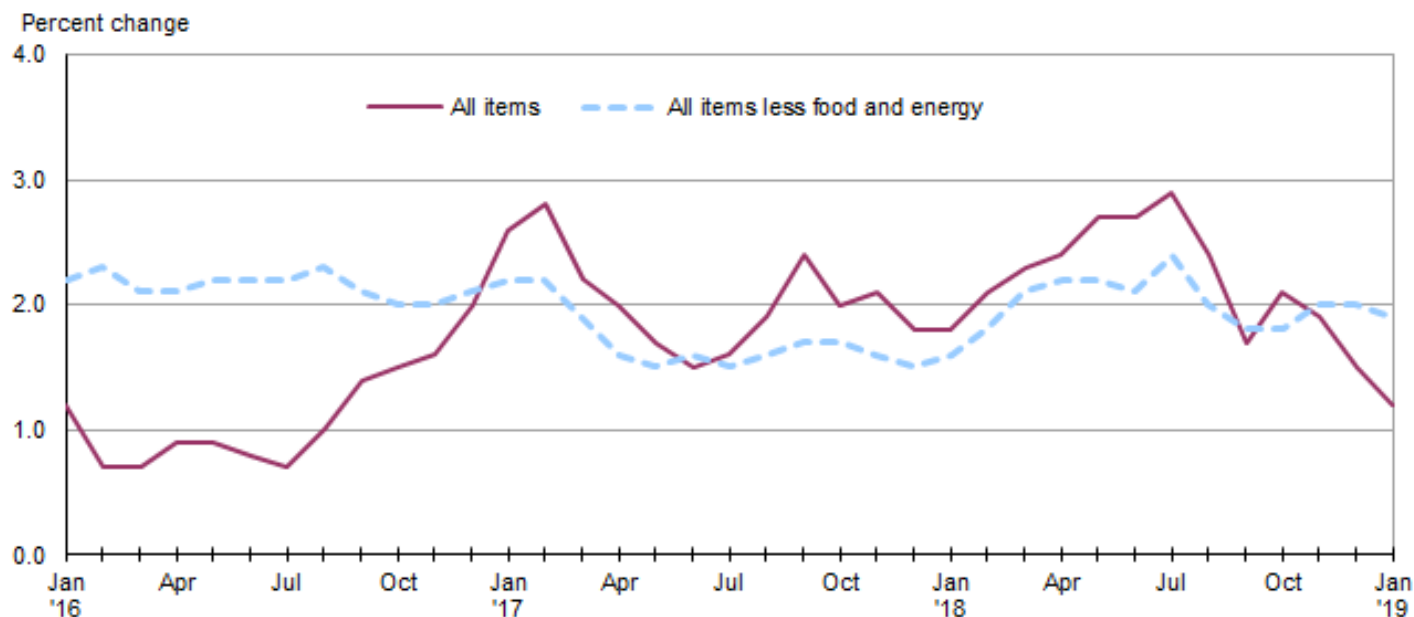
Consumer Price Index, South Region – January 2019

Prices in the South up 0.2 percent over the month and 1.2 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South edged up 0.2 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The all items less food and energy index and the food index were up 0.4 percent each over the month. The energy index declined 2.1 percent in January. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U for the South increased 1.2 percent over the year. Since January 2018, the all items less food and energy index advanced 1.9 percent and the food index rose 1.5 percent. The energy index declined 6.6 percent over the last 12 months. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, South region, January 2016–January 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

The food index rose 0.4 percent in January, reflecting over-the-month increases in the food at home index (0.4 percent) and the food away from home index (0.3 percent).

The food index advanced 1.5 percent since January 2018, led by a 2.6-percent increase in the food away from home index. Over the year, the food at home index rose 0.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 2.1 percent in January. The gasoline index fell 4.1 percent and the electricity index edged down 0.2 percent over the month. The utility (piped) gas service index rose 0.7 percent in January.

The energy index fell 6.6 percent from January 2018—January 2019, fueled by a 13.8-percent decline in the gasoline index. The electricity index rose 1.4 percent and the utility (piped) gas service index increased 0.5 percent over the last 12 months.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.4 percent in January, as several indexes had increases including shelter (0.3 percent) and new vehicles (1.1 percent).

Since January 2018, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.9 percent. Several indexes recorded increases over the year; most notably shelter (2.7 percent).

Geographic divisions

Additional price indexes are now available for the three divisions of the South. Over the month, the all items CPI-U edged up 0.2 percent in the East South Central and South Atlantic divisions. The all items index in the West South Central division inched up 0.1 percent.

Over the year, the all items index advanced 1.5 percent in the South Atlantic division. The all items index rose 0.8 percent in the West South Central division and 0.6 percent in the East South Central division.

Table A. South region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.6	0.5	1.8	0.2	1.2
February	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.8	0.6	2.1		
March	0.6	-0.3	0.6	0.7	0.0	2.2	0.2	2.3		
April	0.3	-0.6	0.4	0.9	0.2	2.0	0.4	2.4		
May.....	0.4	-0.4	0.4	0.9	0.0	1.7	0.3	2.7		
June.....	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.5	0.2	2.7		
July	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.7	-0.2	1.6	0.0	2.9		
August	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.9	-0.1	2.4		
September.....	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	1.4	0.7	2.4	0.0	1.7		
October.....	0.0	-0.1	0.1	1.5	-0.2	2.0	0.2	2.1		
November.....	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.6	-0.1	2.1	-0.3	1.9		
December.....	-0.4	0.5	0.1	2.0	-0.1	1.8	-0.5	1.5		

The Consumer Price Index for February 2019 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **South region** is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	243.484	242.150	242.547	1.2	-0.4	0.2
All items (December 1977=100).....	394.964	392.801	393.445	-	-	-
Food and beverages	251.631	252.613	253.486	1.5	0.7	0.3
Food	252.744	253.875	254.780	1.5	0.8	0.4
Food at home	238.032	238.833	239.698	0.5	0.7	0.4
Cereal and bakery products	278.637	281.753	280.408	0.5	0.6	-0.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	242.231	241.889	240.931	-0.2	-0.5	-0.4
Dairy and related products	220.979	221.557	220.259	0.1	-0.3	-0.6
Fruits and vegetables	285.236	287.469	292.367	1.0	2.5	1.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	165.199	166.687	170.030	2.0	2.9	2.0
Other food at home	210.312	209.911	210.132	0.2	-0.1	0.1
Food away from home.....	277.422	279.035	280.009	2.6	0.9	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	235.796	234.608	235.026	1.7	-0.3	0.2
Housing	239.757	240.366	240.934	2.5	0.5	0.2
Shelter	276.653	276.993	277.768	2.7	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence	289.481	289.885	290.478	3.1	0.3	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1).....	278.984	279.342	279.750	2.7	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)	278.980	279.337	279.748	2.7	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	237.051	239.326	238.277	1.5	0.5	-0.4
Household energy	189.242	191.605	191.386	1.1	1.1	-0.1
Energy services.....	189.142	191.766	191.646	1.3	1.3	-0.1
Electricity	187.395	189.528	189.212	1.4	1.0	-0.2
Utility (piped) gas service	185.026	190.832	192.081	0.5	3.8	0.7
Household furnishings and operations	122.283	122.739	123.601	2.1	1.1	0.7
Apparel	134.732	129.644	131.748	2.6	-2.2	1.6
Transportation	209.816	203.286	201.909	-2.1	-3.8	-0.7
Private transportation	208.661	202.276	201.044	-2.1	-3.7	-0.6
New and used motor vehicles(2).....	101.541	101.725	102.294	0.9	0.7	0.6
New vehicles	152.461	152.857	154.479	0.6	1.3	1.1
New cars and trucks(2)(3).....	103.811	104.081	105.169	0.6	1.3	1.0
New cars(3).....	152.319	152.708	154.309	1.0	1.3	1.0
Used cars and trucks.....	139.751	139.665	140.439	2.0	0.5	0.6
Motor fuel	220.347	193.275	185.406	-13.5	-15.9	-4.1
Gasoline (all types).....	218.687	191.445	183.666	-13.8	-16.0	-4.1
Unleaded regular(3)	213.238	185.923	178.216	-14.2	-16.4	-4.1
Unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	242.498	217.180	209.302	-11.4	-13.7	-3.6
Unleaded premium(3).....	241.205	217.689	210.159	-10.3	-12.9	-3.5
Motor vehicle insurance(5).....	957.014	957.676	956.571	4.1	0.0	-0.1
Medical care	464.243	463.428	465.889	0.9	0.4	0.5
Medical care commodities.....	360.575	355.052	358.356	-2.9	-0.6	0.9
Medical care services.....	499.130	499.967	502.125	1.9	0.6	0.4
Professional services	364.146	364.120	365.034	2.0	0.2	0.3
Recreation(2).....	119.058	119.452	120.317	3.0	1.1	0.7
Education and communication(2).....	132.510	132.218	132.185	-0.3	-0.2	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(5) ..	1,326.933	1,326.980	1,321.563	1.6	-0.4	-0.4
Other goods and services	429.039	427.225	427.738	0.6	-0.3	0.1
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	243.484	242.150	242.547	1.2	-0.4	0.2
Commodities	183.621	180.668	180.980	-0.7	-1.4	0.2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods South (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
Commodities less food and beverages	151.405	147.233	147.336	-1.9	-2.7	0.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	200.035	189.494	188.328	-4.3	-5.9	-0.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	240.410	226.703	223.809	-6.2	-6.9	-1.3
Durables	107.068	107.268	108.156	0.8	1.0	0.8
Services	303.679	304.088	304.570	2.4	0.3	0.2
Rent of shelter(1)	284.049	284.405	285.203	2.7	0.4	0.3
Transportation services	361.090	359.031	357.177	1.9	-1.1	-0.5
Other services	343.575	343.108	343.819	1.5	0.1	0.2
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	231.423	230.069	230.363	1.2	-0.5	0.1
All items less food	241.803	240.105	240.426	1.1	-0.6	0.1
All items less shelter	231.548	229.578	229.833	0.5	-0.7	0.1
Commodities less food	153.980	149.854	149.964	-1.8	-2.6	0.1
Nondurables	224.556	219.277	219.045	-1.3	-2.5	-0.1
Nondurables less food	201.841	191.785	190.701	-3.9	-5.5	-0.6
Nondurables less food and apparel	238.887	226.216	223.593	-5.6	-6.4	-1.2
Services less rent of shelter(1)	337.843	338.331	338.448	2.0	0.2	0.0
Services less medical care services	286.011	286.383	286.733	2.4	0.3	0.1
Energy	199.670	187.659	183.724	-6.6	-8.0	-2.1
All items less energy	249.187	249.057	249.946	1.9	0.3	0.4
All items less food and energy	248.971	248.628	249.515	1.9	0.2	0.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities	146.050	145.102	146.342	0.6	0.2	0.9
Energy commodities	224.294	197.057	189.095	-13.4	-15.7	-4.0
Services less energy services	315.788	315.952	316.500	2.4	0.2	0.2

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.